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Chaz Domingue works as a professional Babysitter in New Orleans. His job is to integrate and protect the recently deceased into their new and improved lives—a position he reluctantly accepted after his father was murdered. Though Fresh Start has always been the only game in town, resurrection isn't what it's cracked up to be. Nine lives are all a person can get—and a powerful group of desperate, high-level Nine-Timers will stop at nothing to possess the keys to true immortality. Unfortunately, this places Chaz at the lethal center of a maelstrom.

Now the only hope for Chaz and his family—and the ultimate fate of the human race—is secretly locked away in the mind of Angelique, the beautiful, mysterious Newbie who's been entrusted to Chaz's care...

Afterlife: The Resurrection Chronicles Details

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From Reader Review Afterlife: The Resurrection Chronicles for online ebook

Teril says

I received and ARC of this book and it was amazing!

In the first few chapters, that hanging chapters based in separate character's POV was a bit disorientating for me in the beginning. As the story developed it engulfed me into this work of a future time where people can "jump" their consciousness to a new body up to 9 times. In a car wreck and you have the expensive chip.... swoosh =new body.

It is a really interesting concept and it made an amazing story. Once you get used to the different characters having their own point of view in separate chapters that all cohesively tie into each other you are swept away into the futurist world where even the ones you love get bored and leave you for a new life, new memories, and a new body.

I read and ARC, it was amazing, and I totally recommend this book to you all

Once you pass the first 30 pages, you are hooked.

Morgan Busse says

Afterlife gives an intriguing peak into a world where you can live forever (or at least resurrect 9 times).

I will not re-write what the book is about (you can read about it in the blurb above or in some of the other reviews). Instead, I want to share what I liked about Afterlife.

First, the writing is great. Her descriptions of New Orleans jump off the page. You can feel the humidity, hear the sax playing on some lonely corner, see the shadows and fog roll over the city. I usually do not enjoy first person point of view, but it worked (and worked well) for Afterlife.

Second, the premise itself is thought gripping. What would it be like if you could live, and relive and relive? But only nine times? And why nine times? And why would someone choose to live only once? And what about kids? Sterility? Overpopulation with everyone reliving? These questions kept me turning the pages for answers.

Third, the mechanics of how resurrection happens. Two of the characters you follow are high up in the company that provides this service for those wishing to live longer.

Jessica (a GREAT read) says

I managed to do a one day read! Really surprising since my little niece was home today, being her usual loud self! Love her to death, but she hasn't learned the meaning behind inside voice yet.

Anyway, I read Merrie Destefano's debut Afterlife and it wasn't too bad. It was another different read for me.

Other than the idea of resurrection there wasn't too much supernatural involved. But the cover was wicked awesome so I couldn't pass reading this.

The book was told in multiple points of view, which gets a little confusing sometimes, because as you're trying to get into the swing of things with our first narrator it changes to someone else and it took awhile for me to realize he was someone we just saw.

But by having multiple points of view, we're able to know what these people are thinking and how they act. We learn fairly quickly who's good and who's not so good.

The concepts were a little tough to understand as well, the book doesn't really have a futuristic quality to it, but the science behind it obviously is in some ways and it was hard for me at least, to pick up on these things. Like the deal with being resurrected into a new body and get to live 9 lifetimes.

It takes awhile to fully understand all of it and having finished I can't say I understand it all 100% either, but it was still a fairly good read. It was interesting to be in the minds of different characters and learn about their nefarious plans if they were evil or what they were thinking and desiring if they were good.

The pace was well set as well, for soon something shocking happens. One major event happens early on which was devastating and then it soon gets worse, which really amps up the pacing and action.

There wasn't a lot of romance. Hardly any at all, there were feelings to be had, but not much acting upon them. And while the ending was good and somewhat final, I don't know if this is a planned series or just a stand alone, either could be possible at this point.

Overall I give it a 3.5/5 stars. It was a decent read, albeit confusing at some times because some things just didn't get readily explained or explained in enough details, which made it harder for me to understand what was going on in certain points. But still a good read!

Kerrelyn Sparks says

I really enjoyed this. It is so unusual. Great suspense, fantastic world building, and just wonderfully unique.

Torzilla says

I've never read a book that's left me completely and utterly speechless by the time I finished it. Usually, I'll have something to say, even if it's a sentence as simple as 'I love it' or, 'I hate it'. A simple 'I love it,' however, won't cut it for *AFTERLIFE*. This novel is so rich with beautiful descriptions, reflections, and events that I fear I will be unable to give anything Merrie has incorporated justice.

AFTERLIFE is in this futuristic New Orleans setting, where everyone on earth can live more than once. In fact, you can live nine times. Basically you get this little chip inserted into your body, and when you die -- or "jump," as a lot of the characters refer to it -- your soul, whatever it is that makes you, you, transfers to a newly made clone.

Which brings us to the first few pages in the book. Chaz, one of the characters we follow along in this tale, is Babysitting a new clone, Angelique. The two are out drinking during Angelique's first day of rebirth. It is then that they stumble upon our third character, Neville. I won't give much away, especially since what happens in the beginning is especially important for what happens towards the middle and end. Besides, this story is fun to figure out on your own.

I thought that the POV swap was one of the most interesting aspects of this story. I mean, you witness events through Chaz, Angelique, Neville, Russell, and Omega the dog. (Yes, you get to witness the story from a dog's POV. And yes, it is so incredibly awesome.) What's even better is that the POV swap wasn't jarring. I had no problem discerning which scene was happening in which person's perspective. This switch truly was a genius way to get me to hate Russell and Neville on a completely new level. Chaz, at some point, actually grew on me because of witnessing so much through his eyes. Angelique was a bit weird -- I think because of the whole past life issue -- but she was also likable. At least I was upset enough towards the end.

The speech of some of the characters was a bit strange. I wanted to smack these characters for sounding so moronic at times -- especially Neville. It's also a minor detail that one tends to overlook after reading it for so long. Consider this a warning for those of you who are easily annoyed with speech like that. There are also a few words and phrases that might throw people off. I didn't have a problem with them, but I know some will.

I had a hard time adjusting to some of the lingo at the start. And when I say lingo, I'm specifically talking about all the street talk and drugs. They kind of confused me, just because I was unfamiliar with what each did. Due to my confusion, I found myself wishing that there was a bit more exploration with these sorts of facts earlier on. As it is, readers are flung into AFTERLIFE's world with little more than a safety blanket to cling to. We see the good, we see the bad, and we definitely see the ugly. Rest assured, these things do get acknowledged later on in the story; Merrie doesn't leave her readers in the dark.

The format of this novel is extremely different from what I'm used to reading. Typically, the books I've grown accustomed to are in first person and travel from point A to point B. I discover what happens along with the characters. Yet in AFTERLIFE, it's completely different. I'm not entirely sure how to explain it. It's kind of like... Merrie teases you with something new that happens. The chapter ends. Then you witness the scenes leading up to that one event via each of the other characters.

AFTERLIFE is a unique debut with beautiful descriptions by an insanely talented author who is not afraid to try something new. This novel was refreshing and exciting, and I am eagerly anticipating Merrie's future releases. If you enjoy urban fantasy, and if you want to see a new take on what life would be like if humanity could be almost immortal, then you definitely need to check this book out. You'll regret it if you don't!

Tina says

This was definitely original, but the world didn't hold my interest.

Plot 3 stars - Not to bad. There is a lot of potential with the series. Action was not bad.

Cover 2 stars - Is it just me or does the cover model look like she's on crack? She is really freaky looking. Angelique is supposed to resemble a model. What happened?

Writing 1 star - Confusing. There was not enough information to keep the reader informed. Most of the book

kept me confused. All new paranormal terms and the author did a terrible job enlightening the reader. To many POVs. There are even chapters strictly from the dog's point of view. The switching between the POV's timeline was confusing also. Sometimes you would continue in the present just with a different POV, but most times you would switch to a few moments past when a new POV came up. It was confusing.

Setting 2 stars

Originality 4 stars - Reincarnation. Up to 9 lives. With each new life you get a "babysitter" to help with your transition. Definitely an original storyline. But it wasn't something that keep my interest.

Characters> 1 star - To many POV switching, and poor character development. Chaz was a mystery. He's a he and yet he has a feminine voice. I found myself constantly thinking, "What? A man doesn't talk like that." I can't recall a single description of Chaz. How does an author not describe the main character to the reader?

Romance / Chemistry> 1 star - Was there one? I would say no. I'm sure if you ask the author she might say a tiny one. I do recall a moment where Angelique realizes that she is falling in love with Chaz. WTF? They barely talk, there is no chemistry or hint that they would be going this way. Still trying to figure out why it was thrown in there.

Action : Romance 99:01

Ending 2 stars

Good enough to pick up again 1 star - Nope, I won't be picking this up again.

Donna says

If I had the time, I would have finished this book in one sitting. Terrific storytelling.

I really enjoyed how Destefano laid out this story by telling it from the different character's point of view. This helped me understand exactly what each character was thinking and feeling. I feel it was the best way for this story to be told. I wasn't confused by the multiple point of views at all.

The futuristic setting in New Orleans was perfect and felt believable. The only thing keeping this book from being a 5-star read for me was the romance. I wasn't feeling it. The romance felt thin on the surface.

The other thing I really liked about this book, you get the whole story because this is a stand alone novel. I don't see many stand alone novels in the UF and PNR genres very much. I'm going to keep my eye out any more novels by Merrie Destefano.

Kelly says

Set in the New Orleans of the future, *Afterlife* gives us a chilling look at what humanity might become if we developed the technology to transcend death. The Fresh Start company uses clones and memory

“downloading” to resurrect anyone with the money to pay for the privilege, up to a total of nine lives. But as we quickly learn, there are so many things that simply weren’t thought out before the technology was unveiled.

The hero, Chaz Domingue, is a scion of the family that founded Fresh Start, but his older brother is the one who inherited the billion-dollar empire. Instead, Chaz works as a Babysitter, shepherding the newly resurrected through their first disorienting days after returning to life. Since acquiring his latest charge, the lovely Angelique, Chaz finds that danger is stalking him and his family but doesn’t know why. The answers may lie in Angelique’s fragmented memories, and what the two of them learn has the potential to affect the fate of all humanity.

Merrie DeStefano drops the reader right into the action; for the first few chapters, you may feel as lost as Angelique herself, trying to get your bearings in this strange new world. The chapters are short and tense. Each chapter focuses on one incident, either in the main narrative or in the characters’ past, and most of the chapters conclude with a revelation that propels the plot forward or gives us further information about Chaz and Angelique’s world. They are told from several points of view, including Chaz, Angelique, a couple of villains, and a dog (I love the dog). The rapid-fire chapters can feel choppy at first but keep the story moving at a good clip.

Despite this quick pace, *Afterlife* is a book that tugs at the heartstrings. Some passages will be hard to read if you love children; others will be hard to read if you love dogs. What the novel won’t really do is make your heart pound with romance; the romance is not the focal point of the story and is rather thinly developed. Obviously, some readers will like this non-romanciness and others will not.

Afterlife features some Christian themes and motifs. These are handled well; the story asks a number of questions about death and the soul with very little preachiness. There were only a few moments that seemed to preach. It’s more that the “rules” and internal logic of *Afterlife* are rooted in the Christian cosmology.

If there’s a sticking point here, it’s a small one, but one that packs a big punch. The word “Mongoloid.” I could never quite suss out from context what it means in the novel’s world, but I gather that it’s not the same thing it means in our world. Nonetheless, it does mean something in our world, and it’s a word I have a visceral negative reaction to. It’s not an epithet I like to see used by a hero I’m supposed to be sympathizing with, so it took me longer to start liking Chaz than it otherwise would have. I found myself wishing DeStefano had made up a fictional epithet instead.

Other than that, *Afterlife* is an addictive read, with a breakneck pace that might fool you into thinking it’s “just” a thriller — until you realize how deeply it has its claws in your emotions. I recommend it to anyone looking for something different in urban fantasy. It’s not quite like anything else I’ve read, and blends urban fantasy, science fiction, philosophy, and apocalyptic fiction into one satisfying whole.

Review originally published at Fantasy Literature

.Sharon says

This sci-fiction suspense type mystery, frustratingly left me unsatisfied, I didn't mind the numerous point of views angle or the plot/concept, I thought that was an awesome idea for a novel & the writing angle refreshing & new, which is why I picked it up in the first place. I just couldn't get on with the characters I

found them lacking. I hate not finishing a book - so read on, yes it picks up about chapter 7-8 but still left me uninspired, I just didn't like it & I really wanted to...

Update....

I think this will be the type of book you have to make your own mind on, the plot definitely thinks outside the box, so I have added an extra star after rereading the book, I don't often do that so soon, but despite my best efforts it got under the skin, & demanded to be reread.... I did enjoy it more the second time around... & its concepts have stayed with me, job done from the author I think - will I read the next one? Maybe

Tez says

Nine lives aren't enough for those seeking immortality.

Fresh Start employee Chaz Domingue assists his newly resurrected charges for their first week, and this one's proving a real challenge. Angelique Baptiste's previous identity had ties with Chaz's brother, and was highly involved in some revolutionary research - the results for which some people will kill. With resurrection, that's not much of a threat, but Chaz is a One-Timer who never signed up for future lives.

Merrie Destefano has crafted a premise that's powerful in its simplicity. The perfect blend of urban fantasy and science fiction, there are characters to cheer for and settings that spook. From the City of the Dead to the Underground Circus, from gen-spikes to liquid light, from dogs to their human counterparts, Afterlife has so much to love, and the second Resurrection Chronicle can't come soon enough! (No cliff-hanger ending, though - it's a gorgeous standalone.)

Steph says

Where to start? For the first 1/2 of this book I was a ball of frustration. My hubby kept asking, "Still reading that one? Why don't you stop and move on?" The answer ... so many 4-5★ reviews had me curious what I was missing.

The book dumps you into the world with little to no explanation of, well, anything. You meet the two mains, Chaz, who is a babysitter and employee of "Fresh Start". And, Angelique, the Newbie he's babysitting.

There are many POVs, including a dog's, which added to some of my confusion, I think. Chaz often came off as a female voice, causing me to have to flip back to double check, "Who's POV am I reading now?" LOL!

I eventually figured out the idea behind the story/world. Chaz and his family created "Fresh Start", a resurrection company. If you choose to live and die, one life, no resurrection, you are considered a One-Timer. Turns out, as things are now, you can only resurrect into a clone body nine times before your DNA breaks down so much that you cannot "jump" again.

Babysitters look after those that have recently "jumped" into their next life. You can choose which memories you'd like to carry over with you. You don't wake with them, they come back to you over the first couple of

days.

Why 3.5★?

As confused as I was, I was just as equally impressed with the writing. How can that be? The writing was beautiful, but lacking in the information I needed as a reader to understand the world she was creating. And, the storyline is original and an interesting one.

I don't know that I could manage any add'l books in the series. I seriously felt like the most ignorant person trying to figure out this book. Maybe eventually, but this may be the last of the *Resurrection Chronicles* for me.

Kathryn Daugherty says

Oh, what a hot mess this novel is! First, the author should refrain from all her stilted metaphors. They are overwhelming. Second, she should give some thought about developing characters. Chaz, Russell, and even Angelique are practically interchangeable. In fact, we are told that Chaz is a musician, but only Russel has musical metaphors. Third, although showing, not telling, is the best way to advance the plot, this novel's history and background remain opaque well past page 75. Even after some of the details of the world are explained, the motivations are unconvincing. Overall, some ideas, but not enough skill to carry them off.

LadyTechie says

I received an ARC of this book and I am totally floored by it. It went beyond anything I could even imagine. It was urban fantasy based in a place I love to read about, New Orleans. But, this New Orleans is a futuristic one where life and death are completely turned on their ears. Where cats are not the only ones with nine lives, if you choose that path. (Not a spoiler because it is in the description on the back of the book. If fictionally questioning God's plan is offensive to the reader then this book may not be for you, unless you see it as just that, fiction. But, if you don't have to suspend belief in what is important to you to enjoy a book, then this book is a MUST READ. To say it is original is an understatement. It challenges you, makes you think it is going to turn left, then suddenly turns right. It grips your emotions and makes you fear for the characters because you care so much for what happens to them and about the choices that they make. I have to buy the official copy of it for my library because it is a must keep.

Natasha says

One of the most original Urban Fantasy books of the year! I'm on a hell of an awesome reading streak. The last 10 books I've read were A+. I love it. Afterlife is the first novel in The Resurrection Chronicles by Merrie Destefano. That's a mouth full!

Starting off, you get a 101 on Babysitting, and no I don't mean taking care of children. Babysitting in Afterlife takes a whole new meaning to looking after someone. I'll break it down for you. Resurrection is a way of life in this world. Nine lives is as much as a person can get, but for me, nine is more than enough. Each time someone dies there memories are downloaded into a new body at "Fresh Start", which is the facility and head mangment of Resurrections and more. Even when it's capiable of having nine different

lives, that still isn't enough for some people. Which is when others try to find a true life of immortality. That can never be good, and it only brings trouble everyone, especially Chaz and Angelique.

Each chapter titles which character's POV it will be in. We get a variety of POVs in this novel, which I enjoyed. There's Chaz, Angelique, Neville, Russell and even the dog named Omega. Chaz and Angelique have the most chapters in their POV's. I really liked the characters. The secondary characters really stuck out, and had me entertained. As for a dog's POV, I enjoyed it, but since I'm a avid reader of shape shifter / Werewolf novels, and have read the POV of animals before, I found it not as believable as others I've read. Of course no one can know what a dog is really thinking, but I found this Omega was way to smart and thought more like a human than other animal POV's I've read before. I did still enjoy it though, I love when authors mixes things up, and having a few chapters in a dog's POV really mixes it up. I said POV a lot in this paragraph, huh?

Afterlife is a wonderful, exciting and refreshing read. The characters are interesting, and the plot keeps you on your toes. If your an Urban Fantasy reader, this book should go on your TBR pile. If your a Urban Fantasy reader, who is stuck in a reading rut, then this is really the novel for you. It's a mix up from normal Urban Fantasy's. And original read indeed! .

Crystal ♥ RBtWBC says

Destefano's debut is a darkly wonderful novel, fast paced and compelling, chock full of suspense & mystery, murder & deceit, with the ever present struggle of good vs evil, and just a dash of romance.

The story takes place in New Orleans in a type of futuristic world, totally different from our own and makes you appreciate the fact that your world is not like this. At least for me it did. It's done in several different character POV's, including a dog. Yes, I said dog, but Omega is no ordinary dog as you will soon find out. In this future you have the choice of being a 'stringer' and 'jumping' to different lives, as in resurrection, by being downloaded into a clone, but you only have nine chances. Or being a "one-timer" and forgoing the resurrection option and moving on to heaven or hell, if that is your belief. Of course there are pro's and con's to every choice...But what happens when your on your ninth life? Well the 'nine-timers' don't want that to be the end and are fighting back. Chaz, who is in the family business at Fresh Start, is a 'baby-sitter' for 'newbies' and the lovely Angelique is his charge. Except she seems to have a lot of secrets from her past lives. Can she help with the 'nine-timer' problem? Or is she a part of it?

Afterlife is imaginative & creative with some definite new ideas for a novel; compelling characters, great plot and awesome world building.

But I had a bit of a time following the story at the start; following some of the terms used though the author starts to explain things around chapter eight. And I wasn't able to get into the main characters as much as I like but it was still a good read, had an original plot and the story wrapped up very nicely at the end.
